

Mohave County Miner.

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General Mining News

For the month of August the gross output of the Consolidated Mercur gold mines of Mercur, was 186,446.468, with expense account amounting to \$6,783.248, leaving a net profit for the month of 96,661.248.

The Ymir Miner of Ymir, B. C., has issued an illustrated supplement to its regular edition, the object of which, as stated in the preface, is to give reliable information as to the general conditions of mining which prevail in British Columbia; and it may be added, judging from a perusal of the supplement, the editor of the Ymir Miner has admirably succeeded in his object. The supplement is in magazine form, well printed and handsomely illustrated. Those who are desirous of posting themselves on British Columbia mining property should send and get a copy of it.

Up to the end of 1899 the total gold output from the mines of the United States was 3,827 tons avoirdupois, the value of which was 2,308,482,4948 nearly the whole of which was produced in the last fifty one years, and from the territory west of the Great Plains. Only 24,000,0008 was produced prior to this. Of this great output, California is responsible for nearly three-quarters, while Colorado, Idaho and Montana output the bulk of the balance. At present Colorado and California head the list, with South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Nevada, Alaska, Utah and Idaho following in the order named. Alaska is forging ahead and will occupy a higher position next year.—California Mineral Wealth.

Prof. George E. Treadwell, the copper expert, has been interviewed by the Chihuahua, Mex., Enterprise. The professor owns considerable stock in the United Verde of Arizona, which at present pays between four and five hundred thousand dollars in dividends per month. Senator Clark holds the majority of the stock which Professor Treadwell asserts he secured by trickery. In 1888 when copper had dropped Clark bribed the secretary of the company to obtain all the shares at 18, excepting Treadwell's tenth. Clark paid the price of his purchase out of the mine in six months. Prof. Treadwell has since sold shares at 3008, giving the 300,000 shares a valuation of 9,000,0008, the highest price ever set on a mine. Referring to the Cananea in the state of Sonora, the professor said he estimated the value of that mine at 100,000,0008 and this was conservative.

Notable in the history of mining, says the Mining & Scientific Press, was the introduction last Saturday of electric power on the Comstock, Nevada, not in any sense in the installation itself, for electricity in mining has been in use a dozen years, but as exemplifying what many consider a new era in the life of that famous lode, which has produced 400,000,0008, and from which dividends aggregating 120,000,0008 have been paid. The history of the enterprise has been so completely given in these columns from the time that this journal urged the move, to the present, that all necessary to now chronicle is that on the 20th inst. the electric current was turned on, starting the milling machinery. It is figured that power can be thus delivered at an exceedingly low rate. This, coupled with other economies and modern mining and milling methods, in connection with unwatering of the lower levels and deeper workings should insure new life to the great lode that made and unmade so many fortunes.

Secretary Bliss of the Interior Department, writes regarding the 5008 expenditure required upon mining claims, saying that "while an expenditure of 1008 in labor or improvements admits the claimant to occupancy for one year, 5008 is required for continued occupancy and enjoyment. While several claims in common may be embraced in the same application for patent survey and notice, a single expenditure of 5008 will suffice for but a single claim. Whatever constitutes a proper annual expenditure under Section 2324 may

unquestionably be treated as part of the greater expenditure exacted by Section 2325, and since the former is deemed to have been made upon each of several claims held in common when it is made upon any one of them for the benefit of all, so under Section 2325 the expenditure will be deemed to have been made upon each of several claims held in common, and included in one application for patent when it is made upon any one of them for the benefit of all; but the expenditure of money must equal in value that which would be required on all of the claims if they were separate or independent."

Operations at the Ray mine and mill have been suspended, and the Blade has been informed by letter, from the management, that the suspension will probably continue for six months at the mine, unless the work of enlarging the mill capacity at Kelvin can be completed in less time. The board of management, in London, acting upon the recommendation of general manager Truman, has decided to enlarge the mill, at Kelvin, to five hundred tons capacity daily, and to install a 450-horse power steam plant of the latest design, to drive this additional machinery. Manager R. U. Truman will leave for New York next week for the purpose of arranging for the construction and shipping of the steam plant and additional machinery required for the enlargement of the mill to the capacity above stated. This step is in keeping with the original intention of the Ray company. A five hundred ton plant was a part of their original program and the present 200-ton plant at Kelvin was erected simply with a view to determining whether or not the Ray ore could be treated at a profit with a plant of large capacity. The experimental run has decided the question in the affirmative and the company will now carry out their original intentions and make the Ray one of Arizona's largest copper producers.—Arizona Blade.

Gold dredging is proving to be a profitable form of gold mining in California as elsewhere, but extravagant statements are being made regarding the possible returns. The truth is good enough without exaggeration. A prominent dredger operator stated that with his dredger in the last year he handled 320,000 cubic yards of material, which averaged 15 cents per cubic yard, at a total cost of 5 cents per cubic yard. This last item included every detail of expense, including interest on the amount invested. This, in round numbers, would mean the handling of 1000 cubic yards per day, at a daily net profit of 1008, which is a fair average statement of results, and in this case a truthful one. Dredging is yet an evolutionary form of mining. Its origin was in New Zealand, in 1863, where the first dredging apparatus is described as having consisted of "a strong iron ring, technically known as a 'spoon,' to which was secured an oxide bag and a long pole. A rope was fastened to the iron ring and secured to a hand winch on the bank of the river. The bucket and pole were taken out and dropped into the stream by means of a boat, the bucket being pressed by the pole as deep as possible into the wash in the bed of the river." The bucket was then hauled ashore by the winch, and the contents put through a California cradle. The process from such primitive device to the 45,0008 gold dredger of 1900, operated by electricity, illustrates mining and scientific advance.—M. & S. Press.

A Deadwood dispatch says: Thirteen cyanide plants are now in operation in the Black Hills, eleven in Lawrence county and two in Pennington county. For 25 years the Black Hills people have been experimenting to find a process that would successfully treat the low grade ores of the different mining districts. Smelting, chlorination and other processes have been used on the richer veins with success for 10 or more years, but the great quantities of 88 and 108 ore could not be profitably touched with any of those methods. The average value of the ore in the Black Hills is low, perhaps

about 128 per ton in gold. The condition of mining affairs in the Hills at the present time, has been enhanced 50 fold by the advent of the cyanide process, which is performing wonders in the reduction of the low grade ores. Colorado men say that the Black Hills ores contain less deleterious materials that might hinder the action of the acid upon the gold, than Colorado and other western states. It is now possible to treat 80 per cent of the ores in the Hills and with certain modifications it is believed that the remaining 20 per cent will become amenable. The ore in the Black Hills is rarely free milling to more than 50 to 100 feet below the surface. The Homestake company has been compelled to put in a cyanide plant, in which to treat the tailings of the ore. The same is true of the Holy Terror mine, in Pennington county. The method of ore extraction that is destined to be the most successful and commonly used will be the cyanide process, either wet or dry, with rolls of stamps.

Information has been received in this city to the effect that the great Rosario mine at Guadalupe y Calvo has become the property of Senator Clark of Montana. A bond was secured on the property by Messrs. Peacock and McConnell of Fort Worth, Texas. For several weeks these gentlemen have been negotiating with Senator Clark, of Montana, who sent to Guadalupe y Calvo four experts who made a minute and extensive examination of the property, the mine, mill, machinery and roads each requiring the attention of a different expert. The examination was most thorough, consuming 60 days, and resulted in the sale being concluded this week in the United States the consideration being \$50,0008. This has been a valuable mine, and was worked with great success by the Spaniards, produced millions under the management of a large English company, who were permitted to establish a mint upon the premises, was subsequently reclaimed by the Spanish owners upon the expiration of the lease held by the English company, and later, the Spaniards making a failure of it, to Senator Clark. The opening of this mine, together with that of the Guadalupe at La Cumbre, upon an extensive scale, will prove a great boon to Guadalupe y Calvo, which will become the headquarters of the mining men in that part of the state of Chihuahua.—Phoenix Enterprise.

Where a person or company has or may run a tunnel for the purpose of developing a lode or lodes owned by said person or company, the money so expended in said tunnel shall be taken and considered as expended on said lode or lodes, and such person or company shall not be required to perform work on the surface of said lode or lodes in order to hold the same. The annual labor of 1008 on each claim may be performed under the above section by work done on a tunnel, cutting, or which is driven to cut, such claims. The patent expenditures of 5008 may also be made in such tunnel. A party may patent one lode on the line of his tunnel for each 5008 of labor spent in driving the tunnel. There is no provision of law for patenting a tunnel site. But it may maintain an adverse claim for the protection of its line and tunnel rights. Every tunnel, whether a crosscut or run upon a vein, is presumed to be for the development of lode claims, and in each case its rights are very closely defined by law. If the proper notice has been posted on the site, establishing the boundary lines thereof, stakes set, etc., and the record only made, the work must be prosecuted with reasonable diligence; the land office rules that a "reasonable diligence in prosecuting the work is one of the essential conditions of the implied contract. Negligence or want of due diligence will be construed as working a forfeiture of their right of all undiscovered veins on the line of the tunnel." A tunnel may, like any other kind of claim, be abandoned; but neglect to work does not effect an abandonment; such neglect only operates to deprive it of tunnel rights along its lines.—M. & S. Press.

Progressive Journalism.

The Kansas City Times, a democratic journal, shows an independent spirit which is above party leaders and political bosses, and speaks out its convictions of right or wrong. The Times well says that while the whole world has always been made up of leaders and followers, and while it will doubtless continue to be so, no one can doubt that the power and prerogative of the leader should have some limit. He should not be permitted and encouraged to deceive and mislead the people. That the old-time partisan press permitted and helped along such deception in a thousand instances, even as a regular and lucrative business, no intelligent person can doubt. The leader's power and right should have a limit. Within this limit the public man who is endowed with the ability to lead should be helped along in all his legitimate efforts. He should be duly honored. His arms should be upheld. Outside of and above the limit, the public man becomes a boss or an unscrupulous demagogue, who, even the party itself has no right to thrust upon upon the people. As the Dallas News sees it, some of the best work of the press of this country lies along that line. The old method of plunging in blindly, of following the unscrupulous and dangerous men of swallowing all the rot which the party doctors may deem it to their best interest to hand out, of giving one's self over to a desperate round of false pretense, false accusation, vilification, abuse, campaign trickery, partisan violence and ballot-box fascinity, is about to give place to something better, something safer. The change is coming largely as a result of the honest and courageous work of an independent press. In the course of time respectable party leaders

may come to find it good policy to encourage independence of this kind—an independence which will save them from tyrannical bosses and from others who have charge of party machines, and who use them, first of all, as a means of grinding out spoils for the greedy enemies of a gang ridden people.

The Basis of Successful Mine Management.

It may seem almost self-evident that one of the secrets in conducting mining operations so as to secure a maximum of profit—the point naturally to be aimed at—is to get the largest amount of work that is possible out of each man employed, without "sweating" him, but at the same time without overpaying him; and to secure the most useful effect that can be got out of the various machines in use, up to the full limit of their capacity, in the shortest possible time, without overtaxing them; that is to say, speaking generally, it depends upon making the best use possible of the men and materials, placed by circumstances at the disposal of the manager of a mine. Obvious as this proposition may appear in principle, however, it is apparently by no means always recognized, or acted upon in practice. Managers, indeed, often seem to fail to grasp the fact that the value, whether of men or machines, is the profit translated into money which their work represents when spread over a given period of time; consequently, the net profit or loss resulting from the undertaking is the difference between what I may term the "profitable and unprofitable units of work" accomplished in the aggregate. If the former exceed the latter the business as a whole must necessarily be profitable, and vice versa; but it is often the case that individual carelessness or departmental inefficiency may reduce, if not entirely wipe out, profits actually earned in other directions, in which work has been executed with greater relative economy.—A. G. Charleston, in the Engineering Magazine for November.

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NOTE.—Avoid baking powders made from alum. They look like pure powders, and may raise the cakes, but alum is a poison and no one can eat food mixed with it without injury to health.